

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?
A Beautiful Display of Extravagant Love
Mark 14:1-11

Read Passage

I. The Sanhedrin's murderous scheme (14:1-2) (Matt. 26:1-5; Lk. 22:1-2)

1 It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, 2 for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

II. Mary's display of extravagant love (14:3-9) (Matt. 26:6-13; Jn. 12:1-8)

A. It expressed gratitude (v. 3a)

3a And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table,

John 12:1-2

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

B. It involved sacrifice (v. 3b)

3b a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.

Why?

1. It was costly

an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly,

2. It was unrepeatable

and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.

3. It was public

John 12:3

Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4. It was risky

In gratitude for the past, she poured her 'future' and her 'security' on Jesus. **Sinclair Ferguson**

C. It provoked harsh criticism (vv. 4-5)

4 There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? 5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

D. It incited divine praise (vv. 6-9)

6 But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. 9 And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

III. Judas' diabolical betrayal (14:11) (Mat. 26:14-16; Lk. 22:3-6)

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Luke 22:3-4

3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. 4 He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.